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MICHIGAN COMMITTEE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

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JUVENILE RECORDS

The Michigan Committee for Juvenile Justice recommends that how records are maintained for the youth who are a part of the juvenile justice system be freshly examined. A young person under the age of 17 who becomes involved with the juvenile justice system deserves the consequence of their crime. These same youth when shown to be rehabilitated deserve to have these youthful offenses eliminated from their record under the safety net of court review.

The goal of the juvenile justice system for youth is rehabilitation. A necessary part of that rehabilitation is the ability of the youth to move on to the military, college or a job when that youth has shown that rehabilitation has been accomplished. The current law allowing public disclosure of youthful offenses does not really distinguish between youthful crimes and adult crimes.

This Committee urges the use of a statutory safety net that protects the citizens of the State of Michigan while still rewarding the youth for achieving progress and rehabilitation. We elect our judiciary to review these cases to make appropriate decisions to set aside a youth's adjudication record and trust that they will do their duty under the guidelines. We should encourage our youth to participate in rehabilitative and skill programs so they can move forward to get an education and a job. We should not discourage our youth from accomplishing these goals by leaving in place an outdated law that prevents our youth from entering adulthood with a clean slate.

Priority has been given within the structure of the Michigan Committee on Juvenile Justice for our youth's juvenile records to accurately reflect their consequence in the criminal system and also the rehabilitation.

Honorable Dorene S. Allen, Chair

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